



WHICKHAM  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# **Annual Report**

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OF THE

## **Medical Officer of Health,**

FOR THE

## **YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1946.**

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SWALWELL,  
A. A. FLETCHER & SON, GENERAL PRINTERS, FOUNDRY LANE,  
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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
WHICKHAM.

SEPTEMBER, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
the Whickham Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the matters concerning the Public Health of your sanitary area, with details of work done by your sanitary staff, and the vital statistics of 1946, compared with previous year. With the improvement in employment, an increase in new industries in the neighbourhood and the rapid demobilisation from the Forces, the housing question is becoming more urgent; to cope with the demand for accommodation only 12 new dwellings were completed during the year, as against 80 in 1939.

The occupation of Fellside Camp by 41 families slightly improved conditions, but an extensive effort is needed to satisfy the claimants, of whom over 1500 are on the waiting register.

The Birth-rate was 3·16 per 1000 population higher than in 1945, the Death-rate showing a fall of 1·13 per 1000 and Infantile Mortality an increase of 4·18 per 1000, mainly due to premature births. One maternal death gave a rate of 2·3 per 1000 births. (Page 7.)

Notifications of all infectious diseases, except Pneumonia, Whooping Cough and Malaria, showed a marked decrease. (Page 29.)

Persistent immunisation against Diphtheria was continued at your Centres, and by the County Welfare and School



Medical Officers, the result being that positive cases fell from 43 in 1945 to 26. The one fatal (non-immunised) case, comparing with four unprotected in 1945. (Page 26.) The voluntary helpers at your Dunston and Whickham Centres deserve, and receive our thanks. Contacts of Smallpox cases on ships reaching British ports were visited and kept under observation until incubation period was over.

Statistical tables and details will be found more fully on pages 5 to 29.

I wish to express my thanks for help during the year, and in compiling this Report to the Chief Financial Officer, the Surveyor, and members of their staffs, as well as the Health Department team who have worked so well during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HOWARD MORRISON,

M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H., L.S.A.,  
(London)

Medical Officer of Health.

# Medical Officer's Annual Report.

## Statistics.

1—Area, in acres - 6,213.

2—Population - 1931 Census - 20,750.

The Registrar General's Estimate of population for mid-1946 is 22,250.

3—Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1946, according to the Rate Book - 6,214.

4—Rateable Value - December, 1946 - £172,340.

5—Sum represented by 1d. Rate - £681.

6—Ward Statistics:

Ward	Total Houses.	Population.	Area. Acres	C'cil H's
Dunston	... 3,143	11,205	695	586
Swalwell	... 951	3,531	730	423
Whickham	... 1,228	4,502	1,811	309
Marley Hill	... 802	3,012	2,977	50
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	6,124	22,250	6,213	1,368
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Social Conditions and Physical Features of the Area.

The Whickham Urban District is situated in the North-west of Durham County, and consists of four Wards, namely Dunston, Swalwell, Whickham and Marley Hill. The District is bounded to the north by the River Tyne, to the west by the River Derwent, to the east by the County Borough of Gateshead and the Chester-le-Street Rural District, and to the south by the Stanley Urban District.

1—DUNSTON: This Ward represents the largest proportion of the population of the district, and while it was at one time chiefly industrial, it is becoming more residential, due to the amount of building that has been undertaken during the past few years. The industries include Heavy Indus-

tries, Flour Mills, Soap Works, Shipping, Power Station, and Coal-mining.

2—SWALWELL: This Ward is largely industrial, chiefly Coal-mining, Brickworks and Ironworks.

3—WHICKHAM (including Sunnyside) This ward is mainly rural, and though residential for the greater part, is partly industrial, including Coal-mining.

4—MARLEY HILL: This Ward is very scattered, and essentially rural. Coal-mining is the chief industry.

There has not been any alteration in the boundaries of the Urban District during 1946.

### **Unemployment.**

Unemployment shows a slight increase.

I append figures supplied by Mr. Fishpool of the Dunston Labour Exchange, showing the position of unemployment in the preceding years:-

1935 - 1301	1942 - 48
1936 - 1001	1943 - 70
1937 - 650	1944 - 50
1938 - 800	1945 - 160
1939 - 517	1946 - 200
1940 - 300	
1941 - 50	

I am informed that of the 200 persons unemployed at the end of 1946, many suffer from some physical defect, or in the older age groups, severely limiting their prospects of obtaining employment.

### **Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the Year.**

#### **Births.**

The total number of births registered during 1946 was 434, of which 221 were male and 213 were female, and of the above total 27 were illegitimate. The natural increase of the population of the area (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) was 196. Of 9 still-births registered, none were illegitimate.



For comparative purposes, I append the 1945 figures:—

Number of live births	...	344 (168 M., 176 F.)
Number of illegitimate births		14
Number of still-births	...	12

The birth rate for the year was 19·50 (16·34 for 1945). This compares favourably with the birth rate for England and Wales at 19·1, but is lower than the administrative County of Durham at 21·3.

### **Infantile Mortality.**

There were 22 infantile deaths recorded (13 male and 9 female), giving an infantile mortality rate of 50·69. This is slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales at 43, but compares favourably with the figure for the administrative County of Durham at 49.

### **Maternal Mortality.**

One maternal death was recorded during the year 1946, a rate of 2·3. The figure for 1945 was Nil.

The figure for England and Wales was 1·43 (England and Wales, 1945 - 1·46).

The figure for Durham County, 1946 is 2·6 (Durham County, 1945 - 2·88).

### **Deaths.**

The total number of deaths during 1946 was 238, of which 133 were male and 105 were female, giving an annual death rate of 10·69 per 1,000 population. The 1945 death rate was 11·82.

Death rate for England and Wales = 11·5 per 1,000.

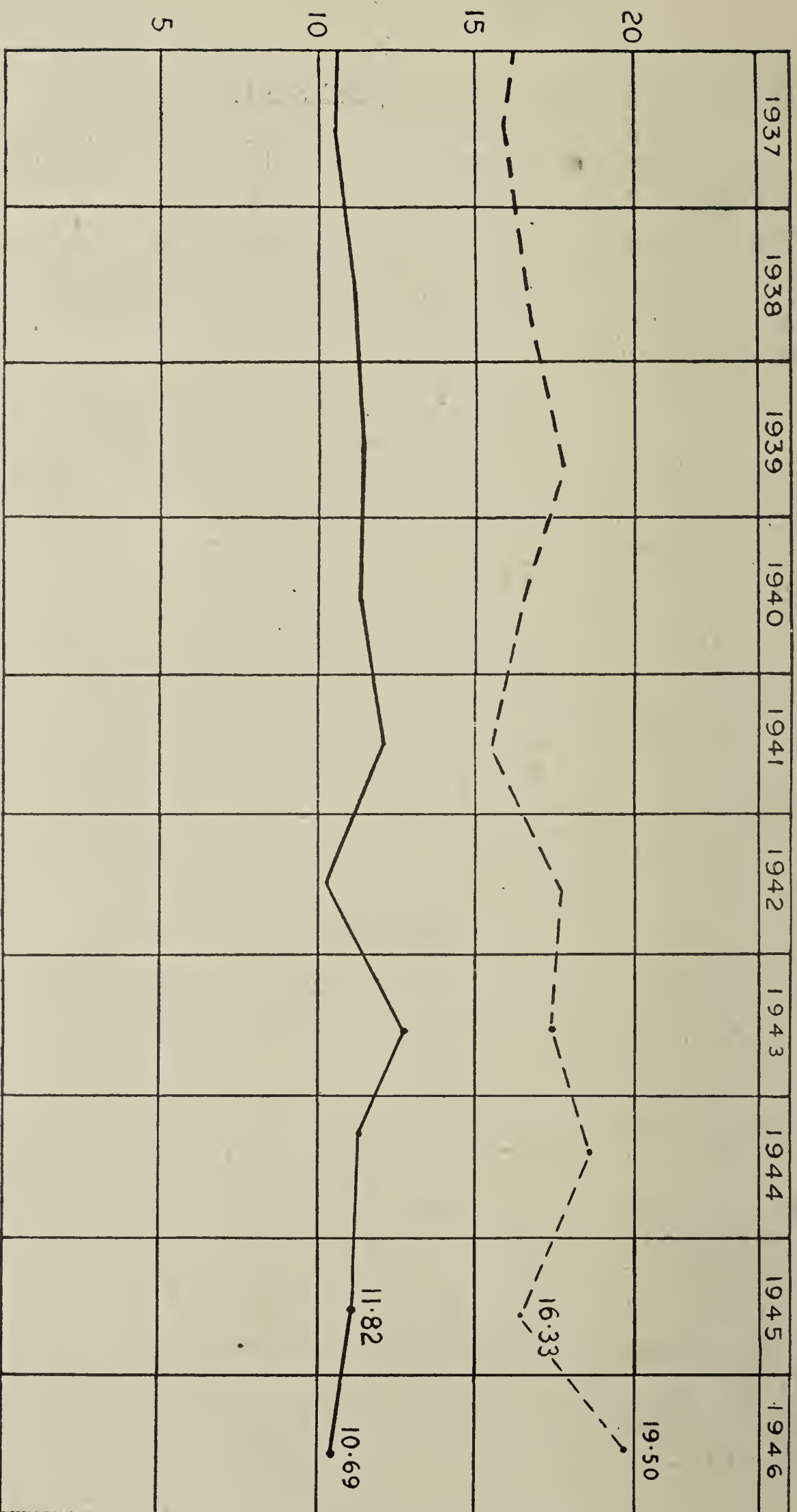
Death rate for Durham County = 11·6 per 1,000.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Heart Disease	68;	Other circulatory diseases	12;
Cancer	29;	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	22;
Respiratory Diseases	32.	Tuberculosis	25.

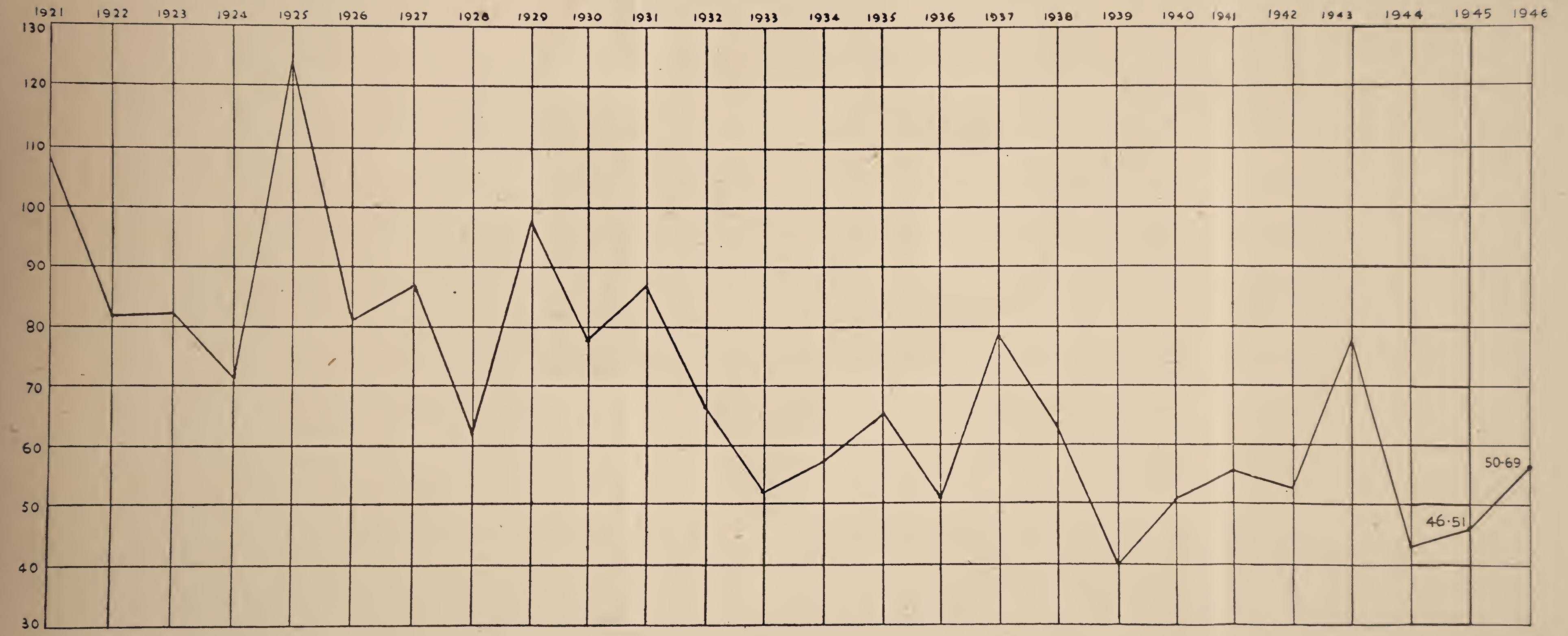
The graph on page 8 shows the birth and death rates from 1937 to 1946, and on page 9 a graph showing the infantile mortality rate in the Whickham area for the 25 years period 1921 - 1946.

Graph showing Birth and Death Rates in Whickham Area for 10 years—1937-1946.



Births per 1,000 of the population.  
Deaths per 1,000 of the population.

Graph showing the Infantile Mortality Rate in the Whickham Area since 1921.







**THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF  
DEATH DURING 1946.**

CAUSES OF DEATH				MALES	FEMALES
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	—	—
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	..	1	2
5	Diphtheria	...	...	1	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	12	12
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	—
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	—	—
9	Influenza	...	...	—	—
10	Measles	...	...	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
12	Acute Encephalitis	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer of C. Cav.	...	...	1	4
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	4	2
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	—	3
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	8	7
17	Diabetes	...	...	—	1
18	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	10	12
19	Heart Diseases	...	...	40	28
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	...	8	4
21	Bronchitis	...	...	5	3
22	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	...	8	7
23	Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	5	4
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	1	—
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	..	—	2
26	Appendicitis	...	..	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	..	—	—
28	Nephritis	...	...	4	4
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	1
30	Other Maternal causes	...	...	—	—
31	Premature Birth	...	...	2	1
32	Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	...	...	4	4
33	Suicide	...	..	—	—
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	1	—
35	Other Violent Causes	...	....	8	—
36	All other causes	...	...	9	4
ALL CAUSES —				133	105

**Total Number of Deaths • 238.**

(Including 66 deaths of residents dying outside the area,  
and less deaths of 30 non-residents).

### Laboratory Facilities.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Department of King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with which the Durham County Council has an agreement.

The majority of such specimens are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

#### Bacteriological Examinations from Whickham District, 1946.

ENTERIC FEVER.				DIPHTHERIA			TUBERCULOSIS		TUBERCULOSIS		* MISCELL- ANEOUS			TOTALS		
Serological Exams.																
Positive		Negative	Inconclusive													
Typh- osus	Para- typh- osus B.			P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	I	P	N	I	
—	—	—	—	23	189	2	11	33	155	5	20	—	63	370	—	

P - Positive.

N - Negative.

I - Inconclusive.

:: These are the Tuberculosis specimens taken at County Dispensaries, Hospitals and Sanatoria.

\*This section is comprised of examinations receiving the special approval of the County Medical Officer for Brucella Abortus, Haemolytic Streptococci, Faeces, Diphtheria Virulence., Diphtheria direct swab. Urine (enteric).

438 specimens were examined in 1946.

### Ambulance Facilities.

The Council provides an Ambulance for the conveyance of non-infectious cases.

The Conjoint Hospital Board for Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham provides an Ambulance for the transport of infectious cases to Norman's Riding Hospital.

### Nursing in the Home.

District Nursing throughout the Whickham area is carried on most efficiently by Queen's Nurses appointed by the Whickham & District Nursing Association, a body maintained by voluntary effort. Subscriptions are made by the majority

of workmen, who allow deductions from their wages. Generous donations are given by the many well-wishers in the district.

The Association has now adopted the recommendations of the "Rushcliffe" Report with regard to Nurses' Salaries.

### **Record of Nursing Work, 1946-47.**

	Dunston	Whickham	Swalwell	Marley Hill and Sunniside	Total
On books, April 1st, 1946 ...	6	10	3	12	31
New Cases, Medical ...	33	39	31	39	142
"    "    Surgical ...	55	38	38	60	191
Cases Nursed ...	71	77	72	111	231
"    Convalescent ...	64	50	50	82	246
"    Sent to Hospital ...	1	13	3	4	21
"    Died ...	12	12	13	10	47
Total Number of Visits ...	1775	1821	1075	1717	6388
On books, March 31st, 1947	10	6	6	14	36

### **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

Facilities for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, together with Sun-ray, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, and Dental Treatment are made available by Durham County Council at various centres within the area.

### **Hospital Accommodation.**

(a) **Infectious Diseases.** The Conjoint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Norman's Riding, Winlaton, serves the needs of the Whickham, Blaydon and Ryton area.

In the event of Smallpox occurring in the district, the Joint Hospital Committee has made provision for such cases to be treated at Langley Park Hospital under the County Smallpox Scheme.

(b) **Tuberculosis.** Durham County Council has provided various sanatoria for the treatment of tuberculosis cases throughout the county; the number of beds available for this purpose is 538. A tuberculosis dispensary is situated at Whickham.



(c) **General.** The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, receives the greater proportion of medical and surgical cases from the Whickham district, and also provides a convalescent home for both males and females, which is situated on the western boundary of the Ryton Urban District. 100 beds are available. Provision for the treatment of surgical cases is also available at the Whickham & District War Memorial Cottage Hospital; 30 beds are available.

(c) **Midwifery and Gynaecology.** Of those midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most of them find their way to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital and to the Gynaecological Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, or Bensham Hospital.

(e) **Venereal Disease.** The County Council has an arrangement whereby such cases are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1—**Water Supply.** There were 24 extensions to the public water supply during 1946.

The following are the details requested in Ministry of Health Circular 28/46:—

Houses supplied by main direct	...	...	6200
Population supplied by main direct	..	...	21700
Houses supplied by stand pipes	...	...	14
Population supplied by stand pipes	...	...	46
Houses supplied from wells and springs	...	...	8
Population supplied from wells and springs	...	...	24

Part of the area is supplied by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, and part by the Durham County Water Board. Both supplies are subject to periodical sampling for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.



One sample of water taken from the mains at the Council Offices, Whickham, proved to be free from any evidence of pollution by sewage or other foul drainage, nor was there any indication of contamination by undesirable matters derived from the surface, consequently it was of good wholesome quality for human consumption.

**2—Gloset Accommodation.** At the end of 1946 there were 6,415 Water Closets and 173 Ash Closets in the area.

The following table shows the number of Water-closets and Ash-closets in the area during the past 10 years:—

Years	Water Closets.	Ash Closets.
1937	6221	353
1938	6370	310
1939	6381	187
1940	6381	183
1941	6380	179
1942	6380	179
1943	6391	173
1944	6391	173
1945	6391	173
1946	6415	173

Of the 173 ash-closets now remaining a number are used in connection with dwelling houses, which, but for the war, would have been included in a slum-clearance area, and will doubtless be so dealt with when such a course again becomes available.

The remainder, almost without exception, are situated in such remote parts of the area as are not yet served by a public sewer.

**3—Public Cleansing.** The following information relating to Public Cleansing has been supplied to me by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

**Scavenging of Roads and Streets.**

The orderly truck system of cleansing still continues with satisfactory results, but, owing to labour and war conditions, the frequency of sweeping has had to be curtailed on some of the less important streets.

**Refuse Collection.**

100% of this service is executed by mechanical vehicles. Collection takes place once per week, and more often in the case of business premises and butchering shops, where required.

55 tons,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cwts. of waste materials have been salvaged, which has resulted in an improved condition of the tips; in addition 254 tons, 9 cwts. of kitchen waste were collected for processing as animal feeding stuff.

The number of tons of Refuse collected during the year was 7056, and the number of houses and other premises served is 6032. The weight per 1,000 population per day is 17·37 cwts. and the method of disposal is by means of tipping.

5—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

SUMMARY of Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1946 in the URBAN DISTRICT of WHICKHAM.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				Number of Informal written notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding ...	5 175		5 28	5 140		Great difficulties were experienced during the year by builders and owners in securing materials for repairs, and of those notices remaining incompleated at the end of the year, the majority were in the hands of the builder and would be completed as soon as the materials and labour were available
Lodging-houses	...	...	...				
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...				
Cowsheds	...	...	...				
Bakehouses	...	...	...				
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...				
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...				
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	2			2		
Waterclosets...	...	28			26		
Defective Yard Paving	...	3			2		
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	13			12		
	No disconnection from sewers						
	Other Faults ...	21			20		
Water Supply	...	35			34		
Pigsties	...	...	...				
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...				
Offensive Trades	...	...	...				
Smoke Nuisances	...	3			3		
Other Nuisances	...	12			11		
Defective & insufficient Dust Bins	...	56	17		46		
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...				
Shops Act 1934 (Sec. 10 - 12)	...	...	...				
TOTALS				353	45	301	

*Inspector's Report, continued:-*

	Number	Remarks.
<b>II. WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS</b>		
Samples of Water taken for analysis	1	Satisfactory - (Mains supply of Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co. 62 lots comprising—
„ „ condemned as unfit for use ...	—	Fish - 50 tins Jam - 21 tins Vegetables - 83 tins Meat - 14 tins, 206 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. raw. Milk - 157 tins. 27 Cartons. Confectionery - 16 lbs. 14 ozs. Bread - 13 Loaves 60 Frozen Rabbits Flour - 27 lbs. Tea - 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Dates - 40 lbs. Butter - 7 lbs. Fish Cakes - 72 Wheat Flakes - 1 packet. Dried Egg - 1 packet Oats - 2 boxes Fruit - 3 tins Sauce - 3 bottles Soup - 5 tins Date Pudding - 12 tins
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	—	
Unwholesome Food surrendered by Traders ...	62 lots	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	—	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	—	
<b>III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE</b>		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	82	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	82	
Schools do. do.	1	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	—	
Convictions for do. do. do.	—	
<b>IV. GENERAL.</b>		
Number of premises adapted as houses ...	3	
Number of New Houses erected during the year ...	9	
Number of such Houses occupied during the year ...	12	
Ash-pit privies converted into Ash-closets ...	—	
do. do. Water-closets	Nil	
Ash-closets do. do.	Nil	
Total number of Water-closets in District ...	6403	
do. Ash-closets do	173	
do. Ashpit-privies do	—	

GEORGE E. HARDY,  
Sanitary Inspector.



## OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES,

(Section 108 of Act of 1901; Section III of Act of 1937)

NATURE OF WORK.	Instances	Notices served.	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, etc., ...			
Cleaning and washing ...			
Household linen ...			
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...			
Curtains and furniture hangings ...			
Furniture and upholstery ...			
Electro-plate ...			
File making ...			
Brass and brass articles ...			
Fur pulling ...			
Cables and chains ...			
Anchors and Grapnels ...			
Cart gear ...			
Locks, latches and keys ...			
Umbrellas, &c. ...			
Artificial flowers ...			
Nets, other than wire nets ...	nil.	nil.	nil.
Tents ...			
Sacks ...			
Racquet and tennis balls ...			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ...			
Brush making ...			
Pea picking ...			
Feather sorting ...			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ...			
Stuffed toys ...			
Basket making ...			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...			
Textile weaving ...			
Lamp Shades ...			
Total ...	nil.	nil.	nil.

### Smoke Abatement.

No smoke observations were taken during 1946.

### Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Area.

## Housing.

The housing shortage in the area is acute, and seems likely to deteriorate still further, some 1,500 applications being on our files at the end of 1946.

The demand for houses far exceeds the supply, and in 1946 only 16 Council houses became vacant during the year.

While the movement of population prevents the compilation of reliable statistics regarding overcrowding, there is no doubt that it is on the increase, due largely to young couples continuing to live with their parents after marriage.

Progress of accommodation recently is shown in building:-

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1945	1946
By U.D.C.	40	288	110	—	37	—	—
Private	135	115	219	122	43	1	12
	<u>175</u>	<u>403</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>

The following table shows the houses allocated during the year:-

Ward.	Bungalows	2 bedrooms	2 bedrooms Do'nstairs Flats	3 bedrooms	3 bedrooms Upstairs Flats	4 bedrooms	Total
Whickham ..	2	3	—	2	—	—	7
Dunston ..	2	1	1	2	2	—	8
Marley Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swalwell ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total ...	4	4	1	5	2	—	16

In addition to the above allocations, overcrowding was relieved in twelve cases by allowing exchanges between Council tenants.

## Housing Statistics for 1946.

### 1—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1—(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 555

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1360

2—(a) Number of dwelling houses (including under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 Nil.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil.

3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil.

4—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 353.

### 2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 235.

### 3—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners ... nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners nil.

*(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—*

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 28   |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—         |      |
| (a) By Owners                      ...                      ...                      ...               | 28   |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners  | nil. |

*(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—*

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made                      ...                      ...   | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursu-<br>ance of Demolition Orders                      ...                      ... | nil. |

*(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act. 1936—*

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made                      ...                      ...                      ...  | nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit                      ...                      ...                      ... | nil. |

**4—Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| *a—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year                      ...                      ...                      ...   | — |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein                      ...   | — |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein                      ...  | — |
| *b—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year                      ...                      ...                      ... | — |



c—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	25
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases				133
d—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	..	...	...	nil.

\*Owing to the movement of population consequent upon the war, reliable figures are not available.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk Supply.

There are 17 milk producers in the area, of whom three hold licences to sell "accredited" milk.

The supervision of the milk supply continued to receive careful attention during the year. Every endeavour has been made to maintain the standard of supervision at pre-war level, and it will be seen from the accompanying table that the position is fairly satisfactory.

## MILK SAMPLES 1946.

23.

Sample No.	Grade.	Methylene Blue	B. Coliform.	Phosphatase
1	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory
2	"	"	"	
3	"	"	"	
4	"	"	"	
5	Pasteurised	"	"	
6	Ordinary ...	"	Satisfactory ..	
7	"	"	"	
8	"	"	"	
9	"	"	"	
10	Accredited ...	Unsatisfactory	"	
11	Ordinary ...	"	"	Satisfactory
12	Accredited ...	Satisfactory ...	"	
13	Ordinary ...	"	"	
14	"	"	"	
15	"	"	"	
16	"	Unsatisfactory	"	
17	"	"	Unsatisfactory	
18	"	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ..	
19	"	"	"	
20	"	"	"	
21	T.T. ...	"	"	Satisfactory ...
22	Ordinary ...	"	"	
23	"	"	"	
24	"	"	"	
25	"	"	"	
26	"	Unsatisfactory	"	
27	"	Satisfactory ...	"	
28	Accredited ...	Unsatisfactory	"	
29	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory ...	Unsatisfactory	
30	Pasteurised ...	"	"	Satisfactory ...
31	Ordinary ...	"	Satisfactory ...	
32	"	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
33	"	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...	
34	"	"	"	
35	"	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
36	"	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...	
37	"	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
38	Pasteurised ...	Satisfactory ...	"	
39	Ordinary ...	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
40	Pasteurised ...	Satisfactory ...	"	
41	Ordinary ...	"	Satisfactory ...	
42	"	"	"	
43	"	"	"	
44	"	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
45	Accredited ..	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...	
46	Ordinary ...	"	"	
47	Accredited ..	Unsatisfactory	"	
48	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory ...	"	
49	"	"	"	Satisfactory ...
50	"	"	"	
51	Pasteurised ...	"	"	
52	Ordinary ...	"	Satisfactory ...	
53	"	"	"	
54	"	"	"	
55	Pasteurised ..	"	"	
56	"	"	"	
57	Ordinary ...	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory ...	
58	"	Satisfactory ...	"	Unsatisfactory
56	Accredited ...	Unsatisfactory	"	
60	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory ...	"	

**Graded Milks.**

There are three "accredited" herds in the district;

During the year under review, the following licences were issued by the Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:—

One dealer's licence to sell Pasteurised Milk.

Two supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised Milk.

Two dealer's licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are no Pasteurising Plants in this area.

**Food & Drugs Act, 1938.**

During the year, 47 samples of milk were submitted to King's College Laboratory, for biological examination for the presence of Tubercle, 4 of these samples proved positive and were reported immediately to the County Authorities. All 4 guilty cows were traced at the farms concerned and slaughtered under the T.B. Order.

**Meat and Foods.**

As from 15th January, 1940, all slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption was carried out in premises occupied by the Crown. The meat for this area is slaughtered in Newcastle upon Tyne. Tinned foods, fish, etc., are dealt with in retail shops; the shopkeepers co-operate very well in notifying the Sanitary Inspector of any suspected food.

**Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

336 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified in the Whickham district during 1946, as compared with 426 in 1945, a decrease of 90. Of the total number notified, 163 were cases of Measles (decrease of 84); 47 cases of Scarlet Fever; 40 cases of Pneumonia; and 31 cases of Diphtheria.

**SMALLPOX.**

There has been no case notified during 1946.

**DIPHTHERIA.**

31 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, (55 in 1945), and all of these were removed to hospital, but only 26 proved positive after swabbing. There was 1 death from Diphtheria, which case had not been immunised. This shows a marked decrease since immunisation began on May 23rd, 1941

**SCARLET FEVER.**

47 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year (54 in 1945), of these 44 were removed to hospital. and 3 were nursed at home. There were no deaths. 46 cases proved positive.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**

2 cases were notified during the year (0 in 1945.)

**CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS.**

1 case was notified but proved negative and removed to hospital (1 in 1945.) There were no deaths.

**DYSENTERY.**

7 cases occurred (decrease of 4 over 1945). All were found to be positive.

**ERYSIPELAS.**

4 cases were notified during the year (8 in 1945.)

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**

1 case was notified (1 case in 1945.)

**PNEUMONIA.**

40 cases as against 25 in 1945. 15 cases were fatal.

**MEASLES.**

163 cases were notified as against 247 in 1945, none fatal.

**WHOOPING COUGH.**

36 cases were notified (28 cases in 1945.)



### ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION.

a-Diphtheria prophylaxis was continued in the Whickham area during the year, and met with a steady response from parents; 80% of schoolchildren being thus protected, and 50% of children under 5 years of age. 309 children in all received the full course during the year, while 17 were given reinforcing doses.

At December, 1946, 4,796 children had completed the full course of injections.

Monthly clinics were held by local practitioners at Dunston Welfare Centre and at the Hermitage, Whickham.

b-I am to record my thanks for the sterling voluntary assistance extended by many former members of the A.R.P. Casualty Service throughout the year in connection with this necessary work.

c-The prophylatic used for immunisation purposes is an Alum-Precipitated Toxoid produced by Messrs Burroughs Wellcome & Co., two injections being given in each case.

### MEASLES PROPHYLAXIS AND ATTENUATION.

At the present there are no local facilities available for the use of serum for Measles Prophylaxis or Attenuation; this also is a matter which, I have little doubt, could be given consideration should the necessity arise.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

There was no action necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

During the year, besides the milk allowances, bedsteads, bedding and nursing appliances have been loaned for home-use by Tuberculosis After-care Committee.

The graph on page 28 shows the incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis in the area for the ten years period, 1937 - 1946.

#### **SCABIES.**

During the year various visits and treatment were given under the Scabies Order, 1941. A suitable medicament was made available to patients on applications to the Public Health Department.

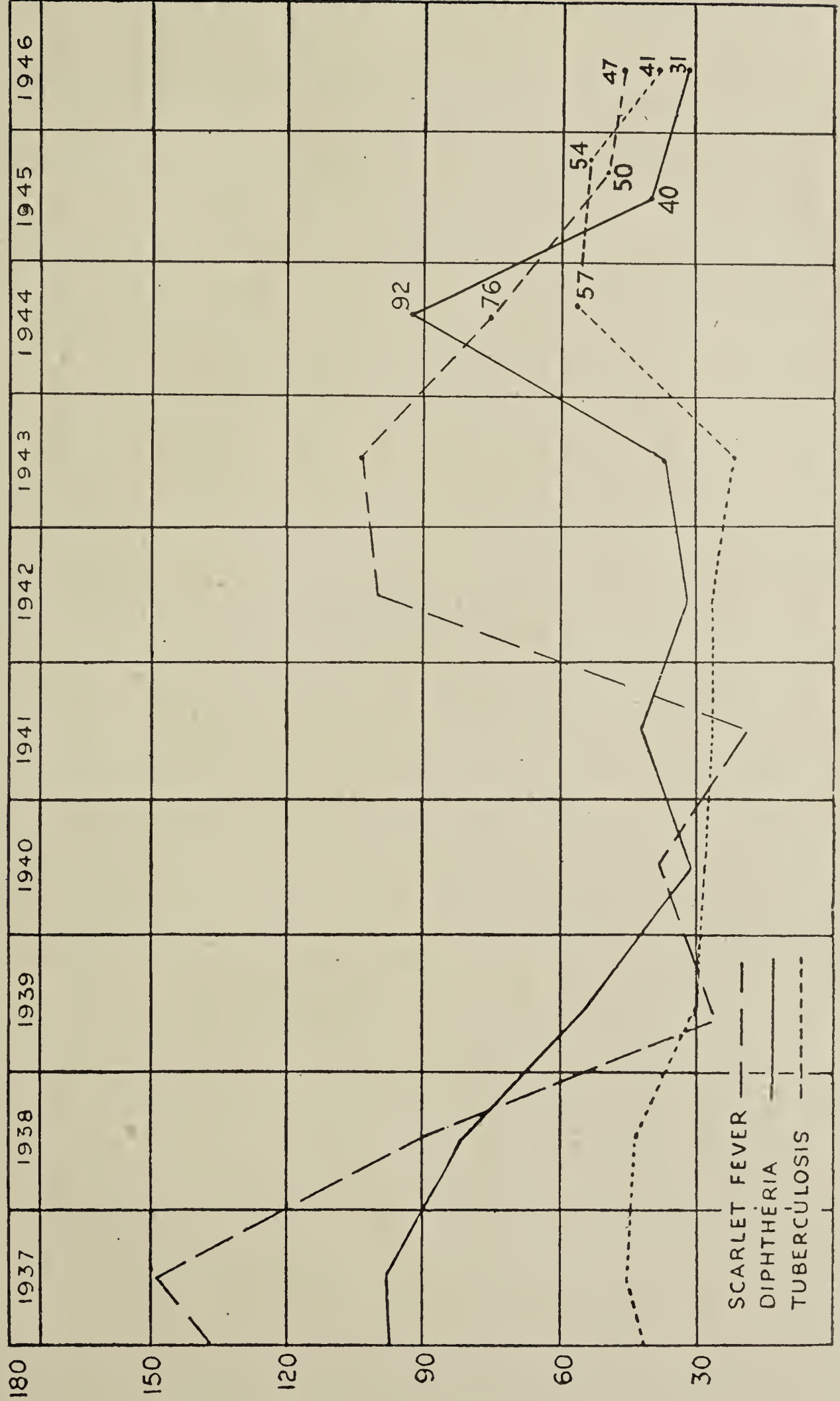
All cases were treated in the home, and observation kept on progress of cure.

#### **Details of Treatment.**

67 cases were recorded and given treatment (163 in 1945.)

75 cases were cured and removed from the register,  
(164 in 1945.)

Graph showing incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis in the Whickham Area during the 10 years 1937 - 1946. (Cases proving Positive only).



29

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1946.

DISEASES	Total Cases notified	AGE GROUPS.										Cases admitted to hospital.
		Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-20 years	25-30 years	35-45 years	45-55 years	55-65 years	65 and over	Unknown	
Smallpox ... ..	—											
Scarlet Fever ... ..	47		12	28	6	1						44
Diphtheria ... ..	31		7	18	3	2	1					31
Enteric (Paratyphoid) ... ..	—											
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—				1							
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1											
Erysipelas ... ..	4					2				2		1
Measles ... ..	163	10	55	92	6							
Pneumonia ... ..	40	2	6	5	4	4	4	4	6	5		2
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	—											
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—											
Whooping Cough ... ..	36	5	22	8		1						
Cerebro Spinal Men. ... ..	1		1									1
Dysentery ... ..	7					4	2	1				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	2	2										
Malaria ... ..	4					3		1				
	336	19	103	151	20	17	7	6	6	7		79

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1946.

Diseases.	Corrected Figure (Totals)	Totals	MONTHS.												WARDS			
			Jan'y	Feb'y	March	April	May	June	July	Aug't	Sept.	Oct'er	Nov'r	Dec'r	Dunston	Wh'kam & Sunnyside	Swalwell	Mar. Hill
Smallpox ... ..	—	—																
Scarlet Fever ... ..	46	47	2	2			3	5	2	2	18	4	6	3	33	6	4	4
Diphtheria ... ..	26	31		8		4	3	2	2	2		2	6	2	26	3		2
Enteric (Paratyph'd) ... ..																		
Puerperal Fever .. ..																		
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1		1											1			
Erysipelas ... ..	4	4	3									1			2	1	1	
Measles ... ..	163	163	1	3	4	24	6	18	5	3	4	5	28	62	81	56	4	22
Pneumonia ... ..	40	40	4	9		5	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	6	10	24	1	5
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..																		
Encephalitis Leth'ca ... ..																		
Whooping Cough ... ..	36	36		10		1	6	8	3		1	1	1	5	3	17		16
Cerebro-spin. Men....		1									1						1	
Dysentery ... ..	7	7					2	1				3		1	7			
Ophthalmia Neon'um ... ..	2	2									1	1			1	1		
Malaria ... ..	4	4								2		2			4			
	329	336	10	33	4	34	24	36	14	11	27	21	43	79	168	108	11	49



## Tuberculosis.

30

New Cases and Mortality, during 1946, (including transfers).

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	2	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
15 — 25	6	8	—	—	2	4	—	—
25 — 35	5	5	1	—	2	4	—	—
35 — 45	3	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
45 — 55	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55 — 65	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	21	16	3	1	9	11	1	—

Sex	No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year.		No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at end of year.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Male ...	135	94	141	95
Female ...	112	90	111	89
Total	247	184	252	184

### Removals from Register.

Reasons.	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Died ... ..	21	9	11	1	—
Diagnosis not confirmed	1	1	—	—	—
Removed from district ..	8	3	4	1	—
Recovered ... ..	4	1	1	—	2
	34	14	16	2	2

## Cases notified during 1946.

	Total	Dunston	Whic'ham	Mar. Hill	Swalwell
Respiratory ... ..	37	26	10	1	—
Non-Respiratory ...	4	2	1	—	1
Total ... ..	41	28	11	1	1

At the various Sanatorias provided by the County Council for institutional treatment there are 538 beds, for which there still a considerable waiting list.

**Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

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*Medical Officer of Health—*

H. MORRISON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., L.S.A. (London)

*Sanitary Inspector—*

GEO. E. HARDY, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., CERT. R.S.I. Meat  
and Other Foods.

*Clerk—*

GEO. OXLEY, (From Forces 25/4/46.)







